

NEFRC

**October Monthly
LEGISLATIVE POLICY
COMMITTEE
Meeting**

**October 2, 2008
Following the
Board Meeting**

**Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, FL 32216**



Bringing Communities Together

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2008
To: NEFRC Legislative Policy Committee
From: Mario Taylor, Deputy CEO & Chief Operations Officer *MT*
Re: November 6, 2008, Committee Meeting

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The next meeting of the **Legislative Policy Committee** will be held on **Thursday, November 6, 2008**, immediately following the Board Meeting, at the **Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.**

Tab 1



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Legislative Policy Committee
September 4, 2008

MINUTES

A meeting of the NEFRC Legislative Policy Committee was held on Thursday, **September 4, 2008**, at 11:45 a.m., at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216. **President Rutledge** called the meeting to order with the following members present representing a quorum:

Michael Griffis	Art Graham	Jon Netts
Jim O'Connell	Mike Boyle	Chip Laibl
Karen Stern	Harold Rutledge	

Excused: Cyndi Stevenson

Others: Larry Williams

Staff: Brian Teeple, Mario Taylor, Mike Hadden, Margo Moehring and Angela Giles

*Approval of Minutes

Councilman Graham moved approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2008, meeting; seconded by Mayor Netts; motion unanimously carried.

2009 Legislative Priorities Solicitation Request Update

Mr. Taylor stated that the solicitation for legislative priorities had gone out in July, and that a copy of the letter was provided for the Committee members. However, the only response at this time has been from Baker County. Commissioner Griffis stated that he would like to emphasize the volunteer fire department. Mr. Taylor also informed the Committee that we had received calls from some of the Counties, requesting an extended deadline to return their priorities to the Council. Discussion followed. **President Rutledge** requested that the Legislative Priority solicitation be sent again via e-mail, with follow up phone calls made to the Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officials of each county.

FRCA Policy Board Update

Mr. Teeple turned the floor over to Ms. Stern. Ms. Stern stated that it had been an honor to serve as President of the FRCA Policy Board, and that she believes it very important that the Councils continue to be active, involved and make sure that the small county's voice is heard. Ms. Stern stated that the incoming President of the FRCA policy board is a very strong supporter of regionalism and will advocate for the Councils with DCA.

Mr. Taylor called the members attention to the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Advocacy Report, and the FRCA Annual Report.

2008 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Discussion was held regarding property tax exemptions and amendments.

State Budget Revenue Forecast

Mr. Teeple informed the members that a deficit of 2.147 billion dollars exists in 2007, and in 2008, the state budget will have a deficit of 1,685.5 billion deficit. The Council's grants and contracts with DCA will be reviewed again. Mr. Teeple also stated that the next Revenue estimating conference will be held in November, after the election. Discussion followed.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 2, 2008**, immediately following the Board Meeting, at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Tab 2

Giles, Angi

From: Giles, Angi

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2008 3:30 PM

To: jcane@bakercountyfl.org; glenstmary@nefcom.net; citymanager@cityofmacclenny.com; fritz.behring@colclay.fl.us; dbowles@greencovesprings.com; citymanager@keystoneheights.us; opclerk@townoforangepark.com; Bue, Paul; amosley@coj.net; jhanson@coab.us; lulah@comcast.net; gforbes@jaxbchfl.net; jjarboe@neptune-beach.com; Christie L. Mayer; beverlybeachtown@bellsouth.net; bunnellcm@flagler.net; bmurphy@cityofflaglerbeach.com; jlandon@ci.palm-coast.fl.us; esealover@nassaucountyfl.com; Cleo Horne (tocclerk@alltel.net); mczymbor@fbfl.org; hillth@alltel.net; rleary@putnam-fl.com; citymanager@crescentcity-fl.com; p.wilburn@interlachen-fl.com; wboynton@gbso.net; townclerk@pomonapark.com; welaka@gbso.net; mwanchick@sjcfl.us; tohclerk@windstream.net; cosa@aug.com; sabadmin@cityofstab.org; Crews, Gordon; ahunter@cityofmacclenny.com; george.bush@colclay.fl.us; councilmemberkeltner@greencovesprings.com; Mary Lou Hildreth; opclerk@townoforangepark.com; Fussell, Councilman Ronnie; jpeyton@coj.net; jmeserve@coab.us; baldwinmayor@comcast.net; fsharp@jaxbchfl.net; dbrown@neptune-beach.com; O'Connell, James; beverlybeachtown@bellsouth.net; Robinson, Mayor (Linda); jmealy@cityofflaglerbeach.com; abaker@cityofflaglerbeach.com; Netts, Mayor Jon (2); nassaumom@aol.com; tocmayor@alltel.net; bmalcolm@fbfl.org; bocchls@putnam-fl.com; adminasst@crescentcity-fl.com; jlyles@interlachen-fl.us; franmartin32148@yahoo.com; kflagg@bellsouth.net; Manuel, Tom; comrobrien@cityofsab.org

Cc: Boyle, Commissioner Michael; Giles, Angi; Griffis, Commissioner Mike; Griffis, Commissioner Mike (2); Laibl, Commissioner Chip; Netts, Mayor Jon; Netts, Mayor Jon (2); O'Connell, Commissioner James; Rutledge, Commissioner Harold ; Karen Stern; Stevenson, Commissioner Cyndi; Stevenson, Commissioner Cyndi; Giles, Angi; Teeple, Brian; Taylor, Mario; Hadden, Michael

Subject: Northeast Florida Legislative Priorities -

Importance: High

Attachments: 2009 Leg priorities to CEO-CAO memo_07-14-08.pdf; 2008 Legislative Priorities web.pdf

To: The Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers of Northeast Florida

Thru: Brian Teeple, CEO, NEFRC

Recently you received a letter from the Northeast Florida Regional Council, asking for your assistance in preparing a list of Legislative Priorities for Northeast Florida. A copy of the letter is attached. At this time, we have only received *one* county's legislative priorities submission. In order to prepare for the upcoming Legislative Session, **your input is needed as soon as possible!**

*We are once again soliciting information from **EACH** of our Counties and Municipalities.*

Please review the attached copy of the 2008 Northeast Florida Legislative Priorities publication as a guide to the pressing matters which were of concern within our Region for the 2008 Legislative Session. Upon determination of the priorities which most greatly affect you now, ***we request that you submit these issues to us by September 19, 2008.*** It is only through your input and participation that we can truly know what matters most to the citizens and constituents of our Region.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact me via e-mail, agiles@nefrc.org, or phone me at (904) 279-0885, ext. 145.

Thank you for your participation and for assisting us in our mission of "Bringing Communities Together

to Advance the Regional Agenda."

Sincerely,
Angi Giles

cc: NEFRC Legislative Committee Members

Angela Giles

Executive Assistant

Northeast Florida Regional Council
6850 Belfort Oaks Place
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 279-0885, ext. 145
www.nefrc.org

"Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda"

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Tab 3

2009 Clay County Legislative Priorities

1) Water Conservation/ Quality Protection

Background: With increasing demands for withdrawal of water from the Floridian aquifer, state involvement with regional water management districts is essential. Recent issues concerning the permitting process of water withdrawals from both the St. John's River and the aquifer have created the opportunity for regional and statewide education on this topic.

Requested Action: Request that the State become involved in providing oversight, guidelines and policies that regional, county and municipal governments can effectively administer.

Effect: Both the short term and long term effects of sustaining, conserving and protecting Northeast Florida's water supply will have a major impact on the quality of life and economic viability of the county.

2) Transportation Funding

Background: Rapid growth in Florida continues to result in increasing traffic congestion, affecting the quality of life of residents and dampening economic development prospects.

Requested Action: Support replenishment of the Transportation Trust Fund from state revenues for transportation projects only.

Enhance financial resources for local transportation improvements including public transit initiatives.

Effect: In the face of spiraling construction costs and reduced transportation funding for counties, replenishment of the Transportation Trust Fund will reduce traffic congestion and increase the quality of life throughout the state.

3) Unfunded Mandates

Background: Unfunded mandates are statutes or regulations that require a state or local government perform certain actions, yet provide no money for fulfilling the requirements. When a federal government imposes a law or regulation without necessary funding, it becomes the responsibility of the state or local government to pay for the implementation of the law.

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Requested Action: Reduce the annual cost shifting from the federal government to the state and local governments.

Effect: A reduction in unfunded mandates will give local governments the control and ability to provide necessary programs and services to taxpayers and operate within their adopted yearly budgets without having the need to adjust for unexpected funding reductions.

4) County Medicaid Responsibilities

Background: The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is proposing a number of changes that would shift additional costs to county government in the delivery of health and human services to a county's population. These potential policy changes which affect the most vulnerable populations including the disabled and elderly leave counties vulnerable to potential cost shifts when there is a state budget deficit or shortfall.

Requested Action:

Oppose legislation affecting the Coordinated Transportation System. Many residents in Clay County depend on Medicaid-funded non-emergency transportation to reach medical appointments and critical healthcare services such as chemotherapy and dialysis. Federal and State cuts in Medicaid funding will have a direct impact on the county's ability to continue providing non-emergency transportation services.

Support the state's efforts in opposing changes to the funding formula for the Medicaid program between the federal and state government that would reduce the federal share to Florida.

Effect: Decreasing the County's fiscal share of Medicaid cost will reduce the disproportionate impact which has become overly burdensome.

5) State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program Funding

Background: County SHIP funds were reduced in 2004 resulting in the wait-listing and subsequent cessation of application acceptance for this affordable housing initiative.

Requested Action: Restore full funding of each county's SHIP allowance as projected prior to state level reductions.

Support legislation to improve affordable housing initiatives.


Effect: Restoration of maximum SHIP fund amounts will immediately increase the number of individuals receiving housing assistance and reduce the current waiting list.

Tab 4

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 1, 2008

To: Legislative Policy Committee

From: Brian D. Teeple, Chief Executive Officer 

Re: Growth Management Provisions of HB 697

Last Legislative Session, HB 697, An Act Relating to Building Standards, was passed. Somewhat under the radar, HB 697 also contained new growth management language as described below:

1. New language relating to the Future Land Use Element of Local Comprehensive Plans state, "The future land use plan shall be based on surveys, studies, and data regarding the area, including ... the discouragement of urban sprawl; energy-efficient land use patterns accounting for existing and future electric power generation and transmission systems; greenhouse gas reduction strategies; ..."
2. New language relating to the Traffic Circulation Element states, "The traffic circulation element shall incorporate transportation strategies to address reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector."
3. New language relating to the Conservation Element states, "A conservation element for the conservation, use and protection of natural resources in the area ..." including factors that affect energy conservation... The land use map or map series contained in the future land use element shall generally identify and depict the following: ... 6. Energy Conservation."
4. New language relating to the Housing Element states, "A housing element consisting of standards, plans and principles to be followed in ... h. Energy efficiency in the design and construction of new housing; I. Use of renewable energy resources"

5. New language relating to the Transportation Element for Urbanized Area local governments states, "...a transportation element which shall be prepared and adopted...and which shall address the following issues: 10. The incorporation of transportation strategies to address reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector."

The effective date of this legislation is July 1, 2008 which technically means that Local Comprehensive Plans must meet these new requirements as of that date. This is unrealistic and DCA is not yet enforcing these provisions. However, you will start to see them mentioned in Objections Comments and Recommendation (ORC) reports from DCA. The Department is uncertain as to when or how they will begin to require local plans to incorporate these new requirements.